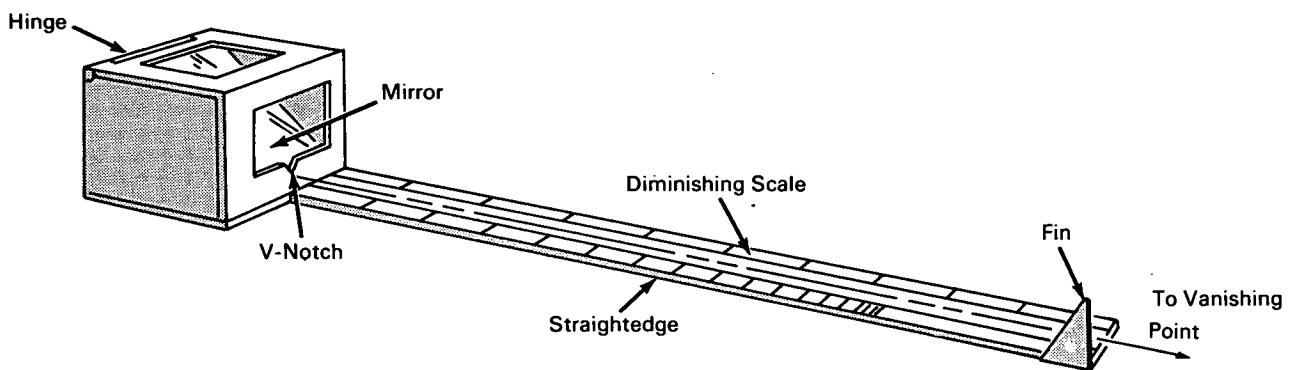


NASA TECH BRIEF



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Instrument Transmits Vanishing Point to Illustration Point



The problem:

To transmit the vanishing point of an illustration to a particular point on the illustration when drawing two- and three-point perspective. In large work, especially, the vanishing point will be at an appreciable distance from the illustration. Commercially available aids, such as perspective grids and boards, are not satisfactory for such work.

The solution:

An instrument that transmits the vanishing point to a point on a diminishing scale that also serves as a straightedge.

How it's done:

A mirror, mounted at a 45° angle is mounted in a housing with a window in its top and another in one of its sides. The top window is used for sighting into the mirror, through the side window, that has a V-notch in its bottom center, along the diminishing scale to a sighting fin mounted on the end of the scale. By aligning the selected vanishing point with the sighting fin and center of the V-notch, the vanishing point is transmitted to a point on the diminishing

scale. The diminishing scale is used both as a straight-edge and foreshortening medium, its drawing edge being aligned with the V-notch and sighting fin. The housing is hinged in a manner to facilitate cleaning of the mirror.

Note:

Inquiries concerning this innovation may be directed to:

Technology Utilization Officer
Manned Spacecraft Center
Houston, Texas 77058
Reference: B66-10324

Patent status:

No patent action is contemplated by NASA.

Source: Manuel M. Alvarez
of North American Aviation, Inc.
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Category 01